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Note verbale dated 9 March 2000 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's notes verbales of 14 February and 25 February 2000 regarding the late issuance of United Nations visas to Norma Goicochea Estnoz and Modesto Fernandez Diaz-Silveira, two Cuban nationals who were seeking entry into the United States for the purpose of attending meetings at the United Nations.

The United States Mission reviewed the two cases and determined that, owing to an inadvertent administrative error, the normal processing time for the visa applications of Ms. Goicochea and Mr. Fernandez was exceeded.

The United States Department of State endeavours to process all visa requests related to United Nations business in a timely manner, and is almost always able to do so. The United States Mission regrets those few instances when this has not been the case, and will take immediate steps to ensure that the reasons for the delay are not repeated.

The host country is mindful of its obligations with regard to issuance of visas for officials coming to the United Nations. However, it is important to remember that issuance of visas requires a reasonable processing period, of up to 15 working days. Most visas are issued earlier than that. It is helpful to receive visa requests with as much advance notice as is possible.

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